

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
LATTIMORE PROPERTY
TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE
MERAUX, ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed travel trailer site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. A Presidential Disaster Declaration, was signed on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. (FEMA-1603-DR-LA).

The proposed action includes developing an approximately seven (7) acre site (termed "Lattimore Property") for approximately 124 travel trailers to be located at 3200 E. Judge Perez in Meraux, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The site is bordered on the north by State Highway 39, on the south by residential properties, on the east by the Delchamps Exclusive Group (EGS) Travel Trailer Site and on the west by a commercial property. The terrain is flat and existing ground cover consists of turf grasses, bare soil, gravel, and limited paving.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. In order to meet the urgent need of hurricane victims to find temporary housing, FEMA has conducted an expedited environmental review process to identify and address environmental issues. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – January 25, 2006 to January 27, 2006. Written comments on the draft EA can be faxed to FEMA's Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge at (225) 346-5848; and verbal comments will be accepted at (225) 376-5137 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

The draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. The draft EA is also available for public review at the St. Bernard Parish, FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at 8101 W. Judge Perez Road, Chalmette, LA 70043, open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Saturday and the St. Bernard Parish Government Building at 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA 70043.

If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the Final documents.

All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA's Teleregistration line at 800-621-3362.